

The Relevance of Clausewitz's Center  
of Gravity in the Age of Global  
Terrorism and  
Reinventing the Center of Gravity

Colonel (Ret) Dale C. Eikmeier

- “The center of gravity construct is useful as an analytical tool to help Joint Force Commanders and staffs analyze friendly and adversary sources of strength as well as weaknesses and vulnerabilities.”
- “...a faulty conclusion resulting from a poor or hasty [center of gravity] analysis can have very serious consequences, such as the inability to achieve strategic and operational objectives as an acceptable cost.”

# Redefining the Center of Gravity

- Ends – Goals and Objectives
- Ways – Methods, Actions
- Means - Resources
  
- Clarity – limited meaning
- Logic – contains rules
- Precision – narrow focus
- Testable – objectively validated

# Current and Proposed Definitions

A COG can be viewed as the set of characteristics, capabilities, and sources of power from which a system derives its moral or physical strength, freedom of action, and will to act.”

DOD, JP 5-0 , IV-8

*The Center of Gravity is the primary entity that possesses the inherent capability to achieve the objective.*

# Centers of Gravity “Critical Factors”

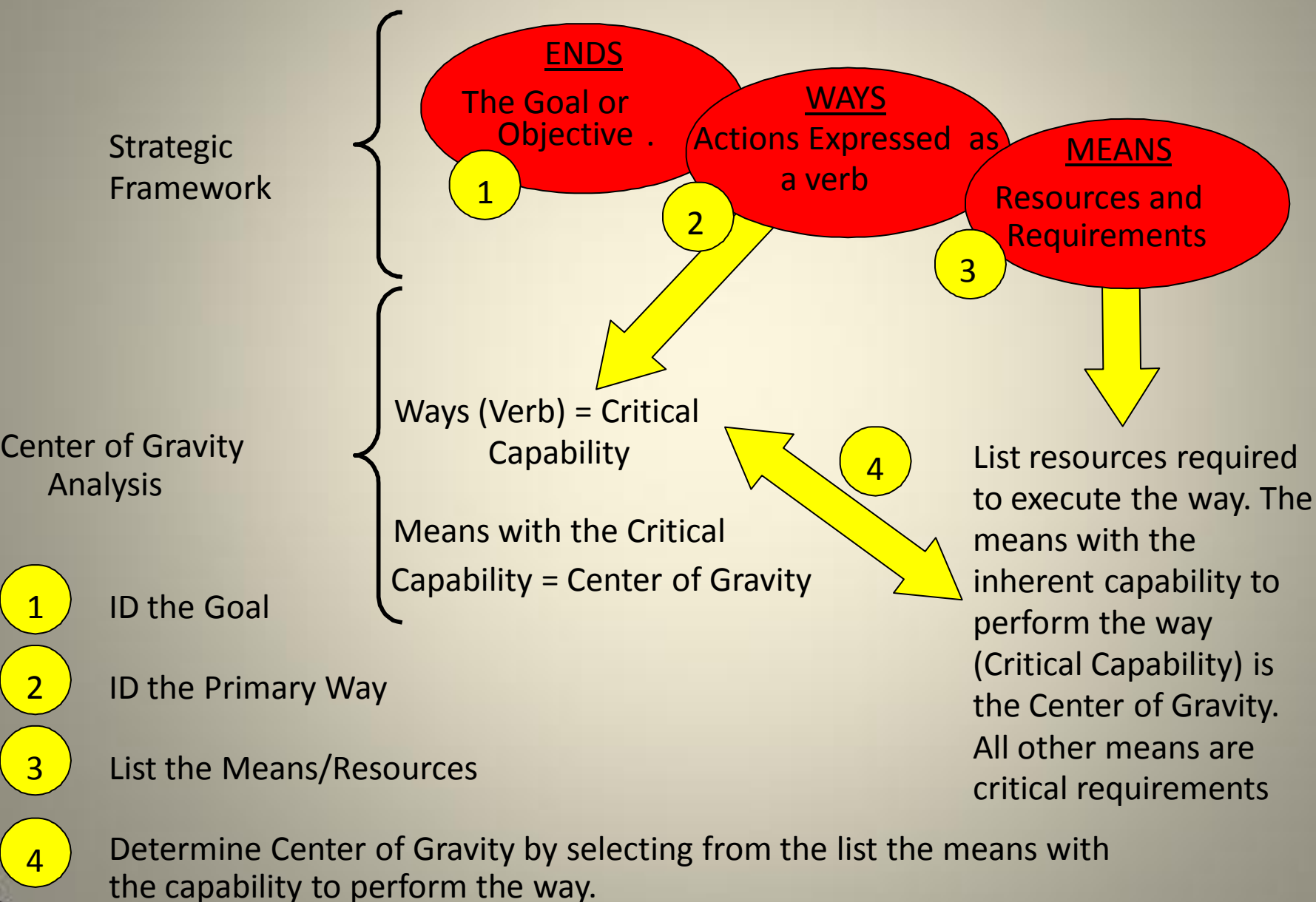
Critical Capability: *Primary abilities* which merits a Center of Gravity to be identified as such in the context of a given scenario, situation or mission.

Critical Requirements: Essential conditions, resources and means for a critical capability to be fully operative.

Critical Vulnerabilities: Critical requirements or components thereof which are deficient or vulnerable to neutralization, interdiction or attack in a manner achieving decisive results.

Dr. Joe Strange.

# A Method for Center of Gravity Analysis



# Attacking the Center of Gravity

